

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 368
By Sands

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Horace Oliver Porter of
Columbia.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Horace Oliver Porter, retired educator, coach and civic leader in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Horace Porter was born the seventh child of devout Baptist parents in Columbia; early in life he joined a prayer band meeting on Wednesday nights at the neighboring Methodist Church and, with his parents' blessing, he remained active in the A.M.E. Church at Wayman Chapel throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Young Horace entered College Hill Elementary School in 1920, where he was a student until the sixth grade, when the family moved to Indianapolis; he attended Booker T. High School No. 17 and then Crispus Attucks High, until moving back to Columbia in 1931 as a Junior; and

WHEREAS, As a Senior at College Hill High School, Horace Porter was elected co-captain of the football team and field captain of the baseball team; upon graduation, he enrolled in the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial University in Nashville and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Social Sciences in 1937; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Porter was a valued participant in baseball, softball and football at Tennessee A&I, was voted Third Most Popular Young Man on Campus and was elected Polemarch of Alpha Theta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in his Senior year; he was active in dramatic productions and as a member of the R. Nathaniel Dett Chorus, in which he was a *basso profundo*, and participated in the Spring Festival at Fisk University for two years; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 1937, Horace Porter was selected to serve as a teacher, athletic director, coach and instructor at College Hill School; in 1949, he was elevated to Principal of College Hill, a position that he held until his retirement in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Porter was active in professional organizations, serving as President of the Middle Tennessee Teachers' Association in 1955-56, and as a member of the Executive Board in 1957-59; he served as President of the Tennessee State Principals' Association for 1960-61 and as President of the Columbia Area Principals' Study Council for 1973-74; and

WHEREAS, Horace Porter not only molded young minds and character in the classroom, but on the playing field as well; he held membership in the Middle Tennessee Athletic Association for basketball and football, the Nashville Interscholastic League for baseball, basketball and football, and the Tennessee Education Association, the Middle Region of TEA, the Elementary School Principals' Association, and served as President of the Nashville Sportsman Club; and

WHEREAS, Horace Porter was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; he served as a member of the Columbia Housing Authority, the Maury County Chamber of Commerce, and the Maury County Bicentennial Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Porter was instrumental in the establishment of the Columbia State African American Leadership Institute, as well as being a generous contributor at the inception of the natatorium at Columbia State; he also provided his talents, enthusiasm, and fellowship to the creation of the "Friendly Fifteen"; and

WHEREAS, "Coach" Porter served at various times as a member of the Maury County Democratic Executive Committee and on multiple campaign committees; he prided himself on voting in every election and doing all within his power to encourage others to vote; and

WHEREAS, "Coach" Porter's arrival to cast his vote as the last vote at his voting precinct of College Hill, located in his beloved College Hill School building, was always a traditional and celebrated part of election day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Porter was the recipient of numerous awards and much recognition throughout his professional and retired life; he received the "50 Year Award" in recognition of exemplary service and dedication to Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, Tennessee State University's "Distinguished Service Award", the "Forerunner Award" from the 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee, the "Elevated Young Minds Award" from Central High School of Columbia, and the "Coaching Prowess Award" from College Hill High School; and

WHEREAS, His remarkable coaching record included winning the 1939 Big Ten Athletic Association Championship with a record of 8 victories, no losses and one tie; the 1942 Middle Tennessee Athletic Association Championship with a record of 10 wins, no losses and no ties; the 1947 Middle Tennessee Athletic Association Championship with a record of 9 wins, one loss and no ties; and the 1948 Middle Tennessee Athletic Association Championship with a record of eleven wins, one loss and two ties, including an appearance in the Blues Bowl in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Horace Porter was an active and devout member of the Wayman Chapel A.M.E Church for 77 years, serving faithfully for 28 years as Steward and Trustee; he was instrumental in the establishment of the interdenominational Men's Day Program, which has served to promote fellowship and unity among the diverse churches in Maury County with its special Sunday afternoon "Men's Day" programs, and he served as chairperson and as a member of the Interdenominational Men's Day Organization for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Porter was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Horace Porter enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Mildred S. Porter, and was the proud parent of a son, Gayle Oliver Porter; he and his wife were devoted to their grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Porter leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; he believed in, and practiced, full participation in sports, his recreational pursuits of hunting and fishing, his church life and his community; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional educator, public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Horace Oliver Porter, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Horace Porter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.